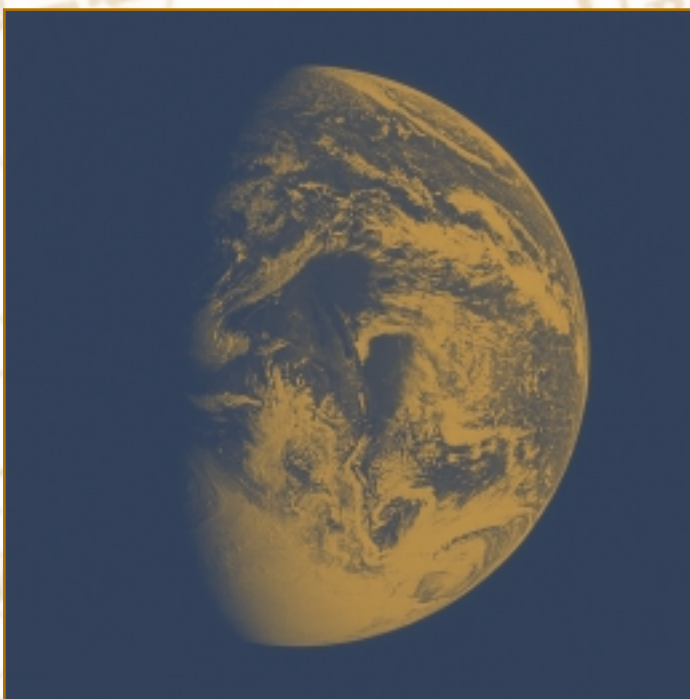


1970

30 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

2000

REMEMBER THE PAST




PROTECT THE FUTURE



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2 EPA-902-R-00-001

NEW JERSEY | NEW YORK | PUERTO RICO | U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS | TRIBAL NATIONS



EPA was born 30 years ago at a time when rivers caught fire and cities were hidden under dense clouds of smoke. We've made remarkable progress since then. But we can't rest on our success.

Our mission to protect the environment, and to protect public health, is a mission without end. New challenges loom over the horizon as surely as the new day.

We must continue our work to ensure that with each new dawn, the sun shines through clear skies and upon clean waters — and all our families enjoy the blessings of good health.

Carol M. Browner

-Carol M. Browner, Administrator

Thirty years. Three decades.

It seems like just yesterday that Senator Gaylord Nelson convened 20 million Americans for a national teach-in on the environment. But 40 percent of today's population wasn't even born that first Earth Day; one in five hadn't started grade school when the Exxon Valdez rammed Bligh Reef, and who can remember the smog that suffocated Donora, Pennsylvania. Even for those of us who have dedicated our lives to protecting the environment, it is a jolt to look back and recall just how bad things were.

Armed with laws like the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and Superfund, we've made enormous progress since 1970. But we must remember the past, lest we put the future at risk. Even today, there are still those who say we don't need — or can't afford — environmental protection; that we must choose between the economy and the environment.

History has proven them wrong. We now have cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner land and safer food, and we enjoy perhaps the strongest economy in our history.

So can we rest on our laurels? Hardly. Cars today are 95 percent cleaner than they were in 1970, but the number of vehicle miles driven has increased by 111 percent. Fuel economy - miles per gallon - is actually slipping. If environmental protection doesn't keep pace with growth, we stand in danger of returning to our polluted past.

With that in mind, I am pleased to present "Remember the Past; Protect the Future." A short look at the long road traveled; it gives me pride to share what our society has accomplished, and hope for what must be done in the future.

Jeanne M. Fox

Jeanne M. Fox
Regional Administrator

Region 2 Administrators

Gerald M. Hansler
(1971-1977)

Eckhardt C. Beck
(1977-1980)

Charles S. Warren
(1980-1981)

Jacqueline E. Schafer
(1982-1984)

Christopher J. Daggett
(1984-1988)

**Constantine
Sidamon-Eristoff**
(1989-1993)

Jeanne M. Fox
(1994-Present)

Region 2 Deputy Administrators

Eric Outwater
(1972-1978)

Richard T. Dewling
(1978-1985)

William J. Muszynski
(1985-Present)